

Dear Mr. Inman,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendment to FHWA's regulation for advance construction of Federal-aid projects. I believe that this FHWA's proposal to remove the provisions that prescribe the policies and procedures for the execution of the project agreement for Federal-aid projects and for advancing the construction of Federal-aid highway projects without obligating Federal funds apportioned or allocated to the States will have many benefits.

In reading the Federal Register (Vol. 68, No. 84), I as a taxpayer felt that the agency presented the proposed rulemaking in a very justifiable manner. I was especially pleased and impressed to see the presence of impact analysis of the subject proposed rulemaking on existing legislations and executive orders. This analysis demonstrated that the agency is mindful of the potential impacts to the economy, the population that the proposed amendment is likely to affect, and likelihood of it inhibiting on other legislations.

Under the more recent federal legislations (NHS Act and TEA-21) regarding the advance construction of Federal-aid projects, the removal of the sections in title 23 USC [Sections 630.707, 630.705(c), 630.705(d), and 630.711] regarding the limitations on pre-construction activities and relating to payment of bond interest on certain Interstate construction projects will result in more consistency in the federal legislation and regulation language.

In addition, the states will benefit from greater flexibility to finance projects and develop financial plans that will allow more projects to begin construction earlier, benefiting the taxpayers with more tangible results to demonstrate the government's effort in putting the taxpayers' dollars to work. Other benefits may include:

- o Streamlining of the grants administration process for the grantees and promote greater efficiency in government at all levels (local, state, and federal)
- o Reduction in the number of strings attached from the federal government in the States' ability to exercise discretion move construction projects forward.
- o Promoting innovative financing of the states to advance constructions for more projects.
- o Stimulating today's economy at the state and national level with more projects under construction (as opposed to a year or two or more from now under the old rule).
- o Providing a better transportation system within the state and on the interstate system as a result.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Amy Changchien
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